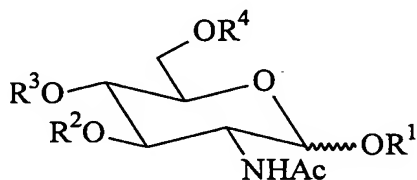


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to An N-acetylglucosamine derivative represented by the following
 5 formula (1), and a hyaluronic acid production promoting agent containing the same and a skin external preparation containing the same:

formula (1)



10 wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 2 to 18 carbon atoms; R², R³, and R⁴ are hydrogen atoms or acyl groups having 2 to 18 carbon atoms and may be all the same or different from others; the steric structure at position 1 may be α or β ; provided that R¹, R², R³, and R⁴
 15 must not be all hydrogen atoms.

It is intended to provide an easily available hyaluronic acid production promoting agent and a skin external preparation whereby the production of hyaluronic acid can be promoted in the skin and thus the skin can be
 20 maintained in a vital and moist state so that it is expected that the human skin can be prevented from age.